

THE IBIS.

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XXXVI.—*Notes upon some Rare Species of Neotropical Birds.* By ROBERT RIDGWAY, Curator, Department of Birds, United-States National Museum.

HAVING intimated a desire to see specimens of the following rare and, to me, particularly interesting species, Mr. Sclater very generously sent them to me for inspection, with the suggestion that I should prepare a few notes concerning them for publication in 'The Ibis.' It is with great pleasure that I comply with this request, although there is not much to be said, all the species being so very distinct as to require little comment.

1. HARPORHYNCHUS OCELLATUS, Scl.

This large species is much the finest of the genus and is remarkably distinct. As originally placed by Mr. Sclater, it belongs to the subgeneric (?) group *Methriopterus**. In coloration it most resembles *H. cinereus*, Xantus, but may be immediately distinguished by the rounded and subcordate

* Cf. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. vol. v. pp. 43-45.

instead of cuneate markings on the breast, white lores and superciliaries, besides its much greater size. In the type specimen (which I believe is still unique) the tail appears to be very much more graduated than in any of its congeners, the lateral feathers being 2.10-2.25 inches shorter than the middle rectrices; but a close inspection shows that these feathers are not fully developed.

2. PYRANGA ERYTHROCEPHALA (Sw.).

This plainly-coloured *Pyranga* is apparently more nearly related to *P. roseigularis*, Cabot, than to any other known species. Not only do the two agree pretty well in size and proportions, but the coloration also presents some similarity. Both have the pileum dull red and the throat pale red, with the rest of the plumage dull-coloured and unvariegated; but while *P. erythrocephala* is olive-green above and yellow below, *P. roseigularis* is greyish above, with dull reddish wings and tail, and whitish below, with pale red or pink lower tail-coverts. It is possible that full-plumaged males of *P. erythrocephala* may have the sides of the head also red; but it seems more likely that in this species, as in *P. roseigularis*, the two red areas are always more or less distinctly separated by the differently coloured lores, orbits, and auriculars.

3. ZONOTRICHIA QUINQUESTRIATA, ScL. & Salv.

This very peculiarly marked and exceedingly distinct Sparrow apparently belongs to the group which Dr. Coues has designated by the generic term *Amphispiza*, of which the *Emberiza bilineata* of Cassin is typical, and to which should also, in my opinion, be referred the "*Zonotrichia*" *mystacalis* of Hartlaub. The true *Zonotrichiæ* are a very well circumscribed group of purely Nearctic species, and include, so far as known, only *Z. leucophrys*, *Z. intermedia*, *Z. gambeli*, *Z. coronata*, and *Z. albicollis*. Where *Emberiza pileata*, Bodd., belongs I am undecided; but I cannot believe that it should be referred to *Zonotrichia*.

4. PEUCÆA NOTOSTICTA, ScL. & Salv.

This is much the largest species of the genus, approaching

in size certain members of the genus *Hæmophila*. In all respects, however, it appears to be a true *Peuceæa*, though not closely related to any of the known species.

5. *CONTOPUS OCHRACEUS*, Scl. & Salv.

This very strongly marked species is about the size and form of *C. lugubris*, but is very different in its coloration, which strongly suggests that of the little *Empidonax flavescens*.

6. *PANYPTILA CAYENNENSIS* (Gm.).

An exact miniature of *P. sancti-hieronymi*, Salvin, of the Guatemalan highlands, the only difference, that I am able to detect, consisting in its very much smaller size.

Smithsonian Institution,
June 27th, 1883.

XXXVII.—*Notes on Woodpeckers.*—No. IV. *On the Woodpeckers of the Ethiopian Region.* By EDWARD HARGITT, F.Z.S.

(Plate XII.)

It may, perhaps, occur to ornithologists that, after Malherbe's extensive monograph, there would be little to write on the subject of the Woodpeckers of Africa; but the criticisms in Professor Sundevall's 'Conspectus' alone would show that the work of the above-named author was not altogether satisfactory; while the vast increase in our knowledge of African ornithology since Malherbe's time seems to me to warrant the necessity of a fresh revision of the family, as far as the Ethiopian Region is concerned. I may state at the outset that I have not much additional information to give on the South-African Woodpeckers, as these birds were the object of very careful study by Mr. Sharpe in his edition of Layard's 'Birds of South Africa,' and I am enabled in most cases to endorse the conclusions arrived at by the last-named author. If Mr. Sharpe has worked out many of the families of South-African birds in the same conscientious manner as